(a) whether it is a fact that Karnataka Government's proposal for the inclusion of Bhandra Wildlife Sanctuary and neighbouring areas under the Mysore Elephant Reserve, has been pending with Government since February, 2008, the proposal being based on Government's guidelines of June, 2002; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and by when the same is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) A proposal for the inclusion of Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary and neighbouring areas under the Mysore Elephant Reserve was received from State Government of Karnataka only in October, 2008. In such cases, proposal is examined by experts followed by site inspection if required before taking a decision. The present proposal has been referred for the expert advice before taking final view in the matter.

Forestry projects in Orissa

3224. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally Sponsored Forestry Projects being implemented in Orissa;

(b) the Central assistance released to the State under those schemes during the last two Five Year Plans, so far; and

(c) the details of achievements made under the schemes in various specific areas of that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The details of centrally sponsored forestry projects being implemented in the State of Orissa and central assistance released for these schemes by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to the State during the Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plans are as under:

Sl. No.	Projects/schemes	Ninth Five Year Plan 1997—2002	Tenth Five Year Plan 2002—2007
1.	Wetland Conservation Programme	1.94	4.90
2.	Mangroves	1.41	1.62
3.	Biosphere Reserves	0.81	2.54
4.	Intensification of Forest Management	0.82	4.27
5.	Tiger Project	4.12	5.92
6.	Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats	2.81	13.07
7.	National Afforestation Programme	0.05	56.48
8.	Project Elephant	2.05	6.30

(c) Funding provided under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes has resulted in creation of improved infrastructure for promotion, conservation and development of forests and wildlife.

Fire in forests

3225. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of forests that caught fire this summer and the number of incidents of fire reported, giving the details, State-wise;

(b) whether the fire incidents were successfully controlled in all cases;

(c) the details of the damage caused by these fire incidents; and

(d) the long term arrangements made to control or prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) This information is not collected at the Central level. However, the same is being collected from the State/UT Forest Departments and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) The Government of India through its Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments to supplement their forest-fire prevention and control measures. The long term measures being taken to prevent and control forest-fires include:

(i) Setting up of Fire Fighting Cells with surveillance and communication equipments and mobility.

(ii) Fire mapping and preparation of Fire Management Plans.

(iii) Use of MODIS Satellite data through web-based facility for near real time detection of fire and intimation to the concerned State/UT Forest Department by the Forest Survey of India, Dehradun.

(iv) Creation and maintenance of Fire Lines by removal of fire hazards before the onset of fire season and during the season.

(v) Construction of Fire Watch Towers at strategic locations.

(vi) Construction of Water Storage Structures and storage of water.

(vii) Engagement of Fire Watchers during fire season.

(viii) Involvement of local people through Joint Forest Management Committees in surveillance, reporting and fire fighting.

(ix) Training and awareness of personnel and people.

Fire in Corbett National Park

3226. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that high alert has been sounded in the Corbett National Park following a major fire in the periphery of Uttarakhand Park in April this year;